



Southeast Fishery Bulletin

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Recreational Harvest of Snowy Grouper in South Atlantic Waters Will Close on July 6, 2015

Recreational harvest of snowy grouper in the South Atlantic will **close at 12:01 a.m. (local time), July 6, 2015**. Recreational harvest will reopen at 12:01 a.m. (local time) on January 1, 2016. The 2015 recreational annual catch limit is 523 fish. The 2015 fishing season must be shortened if the average 2012-2014 recreational landings exceed the annual catch limit. Reports indicate the average 2012-2014 landings exceeded the annual catch limit; therefore, the recreational harvest of snowy grouper will close July 6, 2015.

During the closure:

- Recreational harvest or possession of snowy grouper is prohibited.
- The closure applies in both state and federal waters for vessels with a valid charter/headboat permit for South Atlantic Snapper-Grouper.
- Commercial harvest of snowy grouper for the 2015 fishing season closed on June 30, 2015; therefore, harvest or possession of snowy grouper in or from federal waters is closed.
- Sale and purchase of snowy grouper in or from federal waters is prohibited.

This closure is necessary to protect the snapper-grouper resource.